



Dems Take Back Congress

By ZACH BOWMAN
Entertainment Editor

By 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, all the candidates up for election this year knew whether to toast to a victory or lick their wounds in defeat; all of them except for the two Virginia Senatorial candidates.

At that time, democratic candidate Jim Webb unofficially held 49.55 percent of the vote in his state, followed closely by republican incumbent George Allen with 49.24 percent of the vote according to sbe.vipnet.org, the Commonwealth's official vote-counting site. By Virginia law, the state will automatically fund a recount when the votes are within one-half of a percentage point of one another.

The near perfect tie between the Virginian candidates has a larger impact than on the coastal Commonwealth alone. The Senate stands at a 49/50 Republican/Democrat split, meaning that whoever solidifies a win in Virginia determines the balance of power in the Senate, something that is particularly important for republicans who lost the House of Representatives in the election.

"I'm hopeful, definitely," said UMW junior Colin Biddle, Vice President of Mary Washington Young Democrats.

Biddle pointed to a push for a more liberal Virginia as the reason behind the switch from a Republican dominated government in the House to one helmed by the Democrats.

Senior John Triolo, immediate past chairman of the College Republicans and current representative for the first district congressional committee, did not see the change as indicative of a more blue Virginia, but rather as the result of a traditionally conservative party attempting to temper themselves and become more moderate.

"It's my opinion that this is not a defeat for conservatives in the Republican Party, but rather a defeat for moderating influences inside the party," Triolo said. "We tried doing things their

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Photo Courtesy of Elz England

Sophomore Monica Fritz-Monollo, junior Will Hawk and sophomore Alyssa Ballentine were among many Young Democrats who traveled to Northern Virginia Tuesday evening for the Virginia Democratic Party's official election celebration.

Moving Toward A Union

By KAITLIN BARKER
Staff Writer

A box in the basement of Seabeck Hall simply states "Worker Comments." A stack of flyers beside it advertises, in English and Spanish, the unrest and dissatisfaction felt by many employees of Sodexho, UMW's dining service.

Several of the workers have stepped forward stating unfair treatment, but have previously refrained from commenting because they didn't want to jeopardize their jobs.

This year the workers have decided to act out and try to make this issue more aware to the Living Wage Campaign as well as to their management.

The purpose of the Living Wage Campaign is to improve the lives of the employees at the University through fair pay. The students involved in this campaign work to increase the wages of the workers that they feel are underpaid and try to provide them with benefits that will help the prevention of unfair management of the workers.

Senior Drew Murray has been working at Seabeck Hall since he was a freshman.

"Sodexho understaffs all the time and makes the jobs harder than they should be because they are cheap," Murray said.

Murray is not the only person on campus who feels this way. In Phil Arnone's column the Nov. 2 edition of *The Bulletin* he described the plight of the workers.

"Workers at Seabeck and the Nest are constantly under staffed, putting a burden of providing food on the employees while management profits," Arnone said.

Conversely, John Dering, the general manager of Sodexho, denied any problems with the staff.

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Alcohol Referrals Up, Rival Virginia Tech

By WHITNEY MITCHELL
Contributing Writer

The University of Mary Washington had the fourth highest number of judicial referrals for liquor law violations out of the Commonwealth's 15 public four-year universities.

The University had 345 judicial referrals in 2005. Virginia Tech, with a student population of about 28,000, had the most referrals with 563 referrals. George Mason University and James Madison University had the second and third most referrals at 520 and 481, respectively, according to the Office of Post Secondary Education.

With a student population of about 4,700, that means about 1 in every 14 students at UMW received an alcohol violation in 2005 on campus. Another incident occurred on public property, bringing the total incidents to 346.

Raymond Tuttle, director of judicial affairs and community responsibility, sees the rise in liquor law violations as a combination of elements.

"There are a lot of things to ask," Tuttle said. "Are students different now? Are there different expectations in college? Are students raised a different way? You can also look at staff members. Are they trained to be more able to confront people?"

Christine Porter, director of residence life, also could not account for the increase.

"If I knew the answer, I could do something about it," Porter said.

Junior Catherine Spoehr sees a lack of Greek life as one reason for the high number of referrals.

"It seems that students at other schools have the option of going to fraternities and sororities to

drink," Spoehr said. "Since Mary Washington does not have these, more students drink in their dorms, leading to more students getting written up for alcohol."

The University's alcohol policy follows Virginia's laws on alcohol. People are allowed to consume alcohol in designated areas on campus if they are 21 years or older. The Eagle's Nest is the only place on campus with a license to sell beer and it must be consumed there.

According to Porter, students are found violating this policy for a variety of reasons.

"People get caught for as many ways as there are violations. As sober as they think they are acting, there is still noise and people sometimes hurt themselves when they drink," Porter said. "Sadly, [when] students report sexual assault, which happens fairly often, sometimes the victim had consumed alcohol."

Seven sexual offenses were reported in 2005. In 2003 and 2004, four incidents were reported total. According to the UMW police, alcohol is involved in 80 to 90 percent of sexual offenses.

If a student violates the University's alcohol policy, they are given a sanction. The most common sanctions for liquor law violations include programs called "Happy Hour" and "Last Call." For "Happy Hour," students read four pamphlets and take a 25 question test. Students must get at least 20 questions correct. "Last Call" is an online alcohol program and students must pay a \$30 fee to take it.

"Sanctions are to educate people and not about telling them they're bad," Tuttle said. "We're not watching over students' shoulders. They have to make their own decisions."

Junior David Baker had an alcohol violation for under-age drinking in Virginia Hall. For his

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Flyers Fire Up Campus

By BRITTANY DEVRIES
Staff Writer

If a female at the University of Mary Washington had never thought pheromones could be the culprit of her man troubles, or thought about pheromones at all, she probably has now. That is the goal of Project Plus, an anti-birth control campaign on campus that has been active since the end of September. Its first flyer, a light blue, damsel-in-distress one, informed students that the chemical changes in pheromones, due to the synthetic hormones found in female contraception, impaired her odorous sense of judgment in potential partners.

"We rely on more than just looks [for] human attraction," said Brittany Shankles, a UMW senior. "It is difficult to find the correct man without access to those chemical reactions."

As an active member of Project Plus, Shankles hopes to make people aware of birth control's "detrimental effects on the individual and on the society." She stressed that Project Plus is not an official campus group, but the combined efforts of a "conglomeration of people working to educate, bring public awareness, and provide an open forum for public discussion."

Shankles would not disclose information about who is involved with the campaign,

since Project Plus wants to "focus on the issues, not the people."

The group's largest effort so far is being responsible for the hundreds of pastel colored flyers distributed throughout campus on bulletin boards, classroom walls, bathroom doors and, thanks to some angry students, in campus trashcans.

"[The campaigns] are misleading," said sophomore Rose Pride. The issues and risks are being disguised by "appealing to the emotions [of students] instead."

Though inspected and approved by Student Activities before being distributed on campus, nearly all of the flyers have been torn down.

"We are not trying to make people upset," Shankles said. "Though I cannot condone ripping them down. People have opposing opinions, but that does not make [their actions] right."

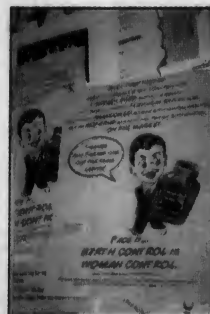
Students have about as much to say about student's destructing the flyers as they do about the information on the crumpled up papers.

"That isn't right," said Pride. "It isn't fair to rip them down like that." Junior Reed Pannell agreed.

"[It] is stupid, but should not be attacked in the way that it has been," he said. "Post flyers with contrary opinions if you don't agree with something you read."

Project Plus provides an interactive online

▶ See FLYERS, page 8



Erica Jackson/Bullet

Of the hundreds of anti-contraceptive flyers that were distributed around campus, only a few remain hanging.

"[It] is stupid, but should not be attacked in the way that it has been," he said. "Post flyers with contrary opinions if you don't agree with something you read."

Project Plus provides an interactive online

▶ See FLYERS, page 8

5 Day Forecast

TODAY
Mostly Sunny

High: 73
Low: 48

FRIDAY
Sunny

High: 75
Low: 54

SATURDAY
Scattered T-Storms

High: 74
Low: 39

SUNDAY
Sunny

High: 58
Low: 32

MONDAY
Mostly Cloudy

High: 56
Low: 43

Verbatim...

"There were some goofy rumors about where Phil and Becky had met, and it was pretty much assumed that they were dating from the get-go"

—Nathan Smith, page 11

News Shorts

WORLD

Gaza City: An Israeli military operation Wednesday killed 19 Palestinian civilians, many of them women and children. The United Nations, the European Union and Great Britain have all condemned Israel's actions. Palestinian militant groups have promised retribution while Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert halted fire in Gaza and ordered an "urgent investigation."

—CNN.com

Pacific Ocean: A buildup of discarded plastics, including toothbrushes and used condoms, are littering the ocean and creating a serious health hazard for aquatic life. Because plastic does not break down like organic material, much of it has been carried thousands of miles and formed a vortex of debris that is threatening sea life who may eat it, get caught in it, or suffer from its pollutants. A science journal recently stated its belief that our planet's stock of seafood would collapse by 2048 if our trends of overfishing and polluting continue.

—CNN.com

Colombo, Sri Lanka: At least 50 Sri Lankan civilians are feared dead after rebel and security forces displaced them. The civilians who disappeared were staying at a school, which was recently bombed. The area is one which is forbidden to any outsiders, governmental or not, so information is coming in from civilians in bits and pieces. 563 civilians left their homes fearing rebel attacks, and over 100 people have been wounded.

—CNN.com

NATION

Washington, D.C.: Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld is stepping down from his position, to be replaced by former CIA chief Robert Gates. Rumsfeld's resignation was announced earlier Wednesday, citing the "fresh perspective" needed for the war in Iraq. Gates, who is currently president of Texas A&M University, served as deputy national security adviser to President George H.W. Bush during the Gulf War in 1991.

—CNN.com

Richmond: A constitutional amendment banning civil unions and same-sex marriage passed easily Tuesday. The senatorial election still awaits a final verdict, but the Amendment was soundly approved by Virginia voters. The Amendment was very popular in most regions of the state with the exception of Northern Virginia, whose voters seemed to agree with the argument that the Amendment would hurt all unmarried couples, heterosexual or homosexual.

—Washingtonpost.com

WEIRD

New York: A detective to the Joint Terrorism Task Force has been suspended for testing positive for illegal drugs, but the man says his wife is to blame. The detective claims that his wife slipped marijuana into his meatballs one night in order to keep him out of danger. She feared for his safety and hoped the charges would force him into an early retirement. The wife confessed and passed a lie-detector test confirming the claim.

—AP

White Plains, N.Y.: A jail went into lockdown after one of its former prisoners was spotted trick-or-treating in his old inmate jumpsuit. The inmate was taking his daughter trick-or-treating when a county corrections officer saw a familiar jumpsuit and contacted the jail, which locked down until it could determine all of its prisoners were accounted for. The former inmate was in jail for four months this year after violating probation on a drunken driving charge.

—AP

Albany, N.Y.: A man was escorted from his gym this week for grunting, a prohibited action under the institution's code of conduct, or bang weights on the ground. The gym, Planet Fitness, has 120 locations across the country and has strict rules established in order to maintain a "non-intimidating atmosphere."

—AP



Police Beat

By STEPHANIE TAIT
Editor In Chief



Nov. 2— At 10:20 a.m., a 20-year-old female student reported to police that, between 10 and 10:15 a.m., someone stole her wallet, valued at \$33, from where she left it sitting on a table in the Eagles Nest. There are no suspects or witnesses and the case is under investigation.

Nov. 2— At 7:13 p.m., police received a report that someone found a large amount of blood in a bathroom in Randolph Hall. Police were unable to locate an injured student and therefore called Mary Washington Hospital where they located the injured student, a 19-year-old male resident of Russell Hall.

Nov. 3— At 1:13 a.m., an officer on duty saw two men walking up Sunken Road holding each other up. The officer arrested Brian Young, an 18-year-old male resident of Russell Hall, for being drunk in public.

Nov. 3— At 4:30 a.m., police received a call

from a student who reported that someone threw a pumpkin through the driver's side window of their vehicle. Police estimate damages at \$350. There are no suspects or witnesses and the case is under investigation.

Nov. 4— At 10:40 p.m., police received a report that a student in Russell Hall had a knitting needle stuck in her cheek. According to police, a 19-year-old female resident of Russell Hall was laughing at a movie when she put her head down and accidentally jabbed her cheek with the needle. The student was transported to Mary Washington Hospital.

Nov. 5— Between 1:10 and 2 p.m., a 19-year-old female resident of Randolph Hall reported to police that someone stole her backpack, valued at \$328, off of the shelf in Seacobeck Hall. There are no suspects or witnesses and the case is under investigation.

Nov. 5— At 6:15 p.m., a 20-year-old male resident of Alvey Hall reported to police that someone threw up on the trunk of his car. Police arrived and discerned that the substance was the insides of a pumpkin. The officer had the student take the vehicle to Facilities Services where he washed it off and discovered that there was no damage to the vehicle.

Nov. 6— At 2:17 p.m., a 20-year-old male resident of Arrington Hall reported to police that someone stole his backpack and laptop, valued at \$247, from Seacobeck Hall. There are no suspects or witnesses and the case is under investigation.

Nov. 6— Between 6 and 6:30 p.m., an 18-year-old male resident of Jefferson Hall reported to police that someone stole his backpack and laptop, valued at \$1,456, from Seacobeck Hall. There are no suspects or witnesses and the case is under investigation.

A "Vote for Change" In Virginia

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way for a couple of years and they just couldn't hand us the victory."

Biddle is optimistic about the future of a democratic-led Congress, pointing to more emphasis on social issues like the minimum wage and social security, and an open debate concerning foreign policy as it stands today.

"I think that George Bush's stance toward Iraq is something people went to the poles and disagreed with," Biddle said. "It's going to be a real discussion between both parties to represent what the American people want to see."

Triolo is less optimistic about the republicans losing control of Congress.

"I don't really see any positive changes [as a result of the democrats taking power]," he said. "I think we're in for at least two years of bad policy. They're going to attempt to repeal the tax cuts, they're going to attempt to disrupt our efforts to win in Iraq, and they're probably going to attempt

to conduct hearings of the president. This is going to be a subpoena Congress."

Senior Andrew Lamar, state-wide chairman of the College Republican Federation of Virginia, was more optimistic, even in light of his party's apparent defeat. Lamar agreed with Triolo by pointing to the Democrats' switch toward more conservative candidates as a large reason for their victory in the recent election.

"If you're a conservative, and I'm a conservative before I'm a Republican, you woke up this morning and you felt pretty happy," Lamar said. "The Democrats ran conservative candidates. They didn't run on traditionally liberal democrat issues, they ran on conservative issues. It's not necessarily a bad day to be a conservative."

Lamar also reflected on Virginia's constitutional Amendment number one, which passed at an unofficial 57.04 percent to 42.96 percent. The Virginian Amendment, along with several other Amendments dealing with the laws

concerning the legal definition of marriage stand as a demonstration of America's conservative values, Lamar said. Triolo agreed, highlighting Allen's failure to endorse the Amendment until late in his campaign as part of the reason for his performance in the poles.

"[Allen] tried to stay as far away from Amendment one as he could until the last two weeks of his campaign, and I think that hurt him in the end," Triolo said. "The strong passage of Amendment one shows that this is still a conservative state, and it ought to still be a Republican state."

Biddle simply pointed to the misrepresentation of the Amendment as the reason for its passing.

"I think it's a tragedy," he said. "It's simply been misrepresented by its proponents, and it's a tragedy for all Virginians. It's redundant, it wasn't a referendum on gay marriage, and it shouldn't have been on the ballot in the first place."

A Demand For Rights

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"Positive customer feedback has indicated that our employees take care of our customers," Dering said.

According to Dering, none of the Sodexo employees have confronted anyone about working conditions issues.

However, Dering did state that November is Annual Enrollment Month at Sodexo, meaning that they will figure out annual enrollment benefits for the workers and also do a review of all employee compensation.

Part of this review is a compensation and wage analysis of the local market to ensure that Sodexo is continuing to pay a fair and competitive wage.

Dering said that he has an "open door policy" with his employees and those employees are allowed at any time to voice their issues and concerns.

"Our employees have several avenues readily available to them to ensure that they are treated with dignity and respect," Dering said, adding that this includes promise of respect and fair treatment to the employees.

However, in his column, Arnone stated that Kori Koenig, one of the Sodexo managers, would not allow the workers to talk to Living Wage Campaign representatives in a meeting, while they were having lunch.

Many Sodexo employees have been looking into forming a union that would benefit them, unbeknownst to Dering.

"This has not been brought to our attention by our employees," Dering said.

He also went on to say that Sodexo respects the rights of all the employees and is committed to treating workers with appreciation and fairness.

Sodexo, Dering said, works positively and collaboratively with many other unions, respecting the rights of its' employees to choose to participate in organizing activities if they wish to.

Dering made it a known fact that the Sodexo workers are receiving an amount of pay that is significantly above the median for the Fredericksburg area.

He stated that he could not share what these specific wages are out of privacy and respect to the employees.

Arnone stated that while the workers are not being decided until the annual benefits and compensation review are thoroughly analyzed.

Dering said, however, that he is working hard to make Sodexo the employer of choice in this area.

Referrals Reach 346

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sanction, Baker had to take an online test and write an essay. After the experience, Baker learned to be more careful in his actions.

"I learned not to turn my music up so loud," he said.

Junior Amanda Hill also got an alcohol violation when an RA noticed a lot of noise from her room in Marshall Hall. She received sanctions for under-age drinking and hosting a gathering. Hill had to write a four-page research paper and take the "Happy Hour" test. She also had to write a five-hundred word essay on the responsibilities of hosting a gathering.

"I wouldn't want to get caught again because it was a lot of work," Hill said. "Just the amount of time it takes to do these things should make students be more careful about drinking alcohol. I learned a few interesting facts like that students spend about \$900 a year on alcohol, but is that really going to stop students from drinking?"

The sanction given to a student depends on the situation. It is usually a combination of other factors that weigh into the sanction including if there was a confrontation with anyone. People have been banned from living in residence halls as sanctions, according to Tuttle.

Another program aimed to decrease student drinking are the Social Norms posters seen on campus with the "That's How We Are" message. All students can participate in the survey distributed via e-mail. The survey will be conducted again in the spring.

"Society and culture tells people they are in college to have a good time and that drinking is a part of the college experience," Tuttle said. "These posters are aimed at the fringe to show that maybe the majority has tried alcohol, but not everyone drinks regularly."

A 2001 study at Harvard School of Public Health College demonstrated a link between students' alcohol use and police contacts: An increasing number of students who drank alcohol in the past 30 days between 1993 and 2001 had trouble with police. Many students who consumed alcohol also experienced academic and interpersonal problems. Between 1993 and 2001, there was also an increase in students reporting riding in cars with drivers who were drunk or high, according to the study.

Tuttle said the increase in liquor law violations could be because RAs are trained to be better able to confront people. Porter, a former RA, said that he was trained to

"I receive e-mails and phone calls from parents and students saying that we're not doing enough," she said.

Most schools in Virginia had a smaller increase in judicial referrals for liquor law violations compared to UMW's increase.

Virginia Tech's referrals increased from 549 in 2004 to 563 in 2005. Christopher Newport University, with a population about the same as UMW's, had an increase from 290 in 2004 to 297 referrals in 2005. James Madison University, Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University and Radford University had a decrease in referrals for liquor law violations.

"Our policy is pretty standard. We are not doing anything off the top of our heads," Tuttle said. "We follow Virginia laws. Some schools fine students, make them go to alcohol education classes and expel students after the second or third violation. Mary Washington is pretty much in the middle."

If a student at Virginia Tech is found in violation of the alcohol policy on the first offense and the offense did not affect the health or safety of themselves or others, the student receives probation. If the student is found in violation of a policy during probation, he or she can be suspended from the university. If it is a student's second offense, the student may receive a deferred sanction for having a violation during the probation period and have to take an educational class that ranges in price from \$30 to \$60, or write a reflection paper. On a third offense, the student may be suspended from the school.

If the violation did affect the health or safety of the student or others, the student would automatically receive a deferred suspension for the first offense.

"My friends at Virginia Tech seem to get away with more stuff," said UMW freshman Alex Schweiger. "They drink with their RAs and come back and pass out in the hallways of dorms."

One student at Virginia Tech does see RAs as less strict on alcohol consumption. "As long as people are not too sloppy and aren't making a lot of noise, then RAs do seem to look the other way," said Virginia Tech sophomore Andrew Holcombe. "We also have huge sporting events and tailgating is an aspect of those events."

To decrease alcohol use, students participating in the Harvard study suggested clarifying alcohol rules, increasing the number of alcohol-free alternatives on campus and offering more alcohol-free housing choices. Students also supported banning alcohol advertisements at schools and enforcing rules more strictly.

Tuttle said that he agrees with Tuttle on UMW's alcohol policy.

"It is not too strict or too lenient," he said. "However, I think a better sanction for alcohol violations would be community services so the community and student get a little more out of it."

Viewpoints

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Viewpoints
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Editorial Dawning of a Newly Liberal Era

The voters of America have spoken. And they're speaking in a liberal tongue.

As the dust settles in the electoral aftermath, it is apparent that the American public has made their decision clear: the GOP is out. Bring on the donkeys.

The American voters painted the most obvious illustration of their intentions in the turnover of the House.

Not only did the Republicans lose 28 seats, but couple that with a net gain of 29 seats for the Democrats and add a spicy Californian female Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, and you've got the equivalence of a mandate.

America Votes For Change

With Democratic Wins In Tuesday's Elections, Change Is On The Horizon

By JAMES MARTIN
Guest Columnist

"The future does not belong to those who are content with today, apathetic toward common problems and their fellow man alike, timid and fearful in the face of bold projects and new ideas. Rather, it will belong to those who can blend passion, reason and courage in a personal commitment to the ideals of American society."

-Robert Kennedy

On Tuesday, American voters sent a clear message that they wanted to be governed by the party of the reasonable center. Democrats defeated incumbent Republican senators in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Montana, Missouri, Rhode Island and Virginia as well as defeated dozens of Incumbent Republicans in the House of Representatives to take the majority in both the House and Senate.

Here in Virginia, Former Secretary of the Navy James Webb became the Democratic Senator-Elect from Virginia after defeating incumbent Republican Senator George Allen in what was once a safe seat.

Part of Webb's surprise victory was an enormous turnout (51.97 percent) throughout the state and especially in Northern Virginia,

where Webb won by more than 40 points.

However, I would argue that the most significant boost for Webb was the incredible enthusiasm he has among younger voters and his large volunteer base.

Many will probably remember Webb's rally here at UMW, which drew more than 1,200 Webb-friendly students.

The night before the election, both Jim Webb and George Allen held rallies for their respective causes, with Allen drawing about 400 people and Webb drawing close to 6,000.

Virginians will also gain a lot from a Democratic Congress. Northern Virginia Congressman Jim Moran will become the Chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Richmond Congressman Bobby Scott will become Chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime,

Terrorism and Homeland Security and Southwest Virginia Congressman Rick Boucher will become the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce and Energy.

Democrats have been given a mandate to change things in Washington and their goals and objectives couldn't be clearer.

Democrats will raise the minimum wage, make college tuition tax deductible, repeal rules that give incentives for sending American jobs overseas, cut taxes on the middle class and work to eliminate the huge Bush deficits which are holding back American economic growth.

America voted yesterday for change, and starting in January, a Democratic Congress will fulfill their promises to keep America safe, secure and prosperous.

James Martin is the Teen/High School Chair for the Virginia Young Democrats and is currently a freshman.

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”

To Life

By DR. ELIZABETH LARUS
Guest Columnist

It's Nov. 9, Long Island, N.Y., in the 1960s. A young, unmarried woman gives birth to a baby girl, the product of a rape.

Soon, the girl would be adopted and raised by a childless couple, the husband a mailman, the wife a nurse. She would be their only child.

She spent her childhood playing with cousins around the corner, picking boysenberries at her grandparents' house in Pennsylvania and crocheting endless afghans, the popcorn stitch being a particular favorite. There were piano and ballet lessons.

By high school, her father was working the early morning shift so he could drive his daughter into Manhattan every day to practice for hours with the American Ballet Theater. A torn cartilage ended her dance career, but that was okay because she was beginning to realize ballet was not going to be a suitable career choice.

I first met this girl in high school algebra class, her flame of red hair setting her apart from my classmates. A friendship developed as we both got picked for dance numbers in the high school

musicals.

We both tried out for, and made, the high school band dance corps, better known as the Pom Pom Squad. By 11th grade, we were inseparable.

As fellow Pom Pom girls, we marched in parades, performed at the football games and competed in dance corp competitions.

We built floats for homecoming and attended football victory parties. We sang and danced in high school musicals and celebrated our fine performances at stage parties.

We took Drivers Ed together, and went to our

first music concert, "America," together. Together, we made the rounds of graduation parties.

We bawled like babies when we left for separate colleges hundreds of miles apart.

Over the years, college, careers and families separated us, but the friendship survived. There were times when we didn't write much because we didn't have so much in common anymore.

Then the children came. She had seven; five boys and two girls! I had four. We found we had a lot in common again! She became a resource on pregnancy, childbirth and childrearing. I

found that with seven children, she could write the book!

Her birthday is today. I'll send her a card and give her a call.

I know she is disappointed she that she never developed a relationship with her birthmother. Instead, she was the much loved only child of the mailman—now dead of cancer—and his wife the nurse, now a grandmother of seven.

She is my friend, my best friend. Her birthmother chose life when most people would have understood if she had sought an abortion, at the time illegal but not uncommon, for this "product of conception," a term for fetus among OB/GYNs today. (Isn't that what a physician called it when there was no heartbeat for two of mine?)

On her birthday, I'd like to thank her birthmother for choosing life and her parents for choosing adoption.

I don't know her birthmother, so I'll keep those thanks in my heart. I'm grateful that she chose life and gave me my best friend!

It is out of love for my friend and her families that I encourage any woman facing an unplanned pregnancy, and anyone who knows someone in this situation, to seek help in choosing life.

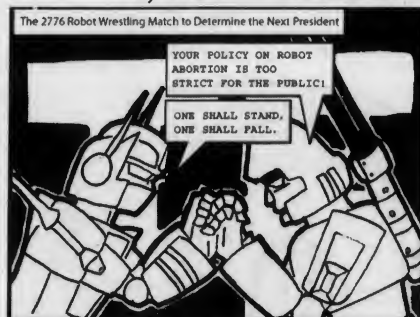
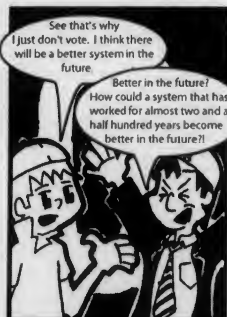
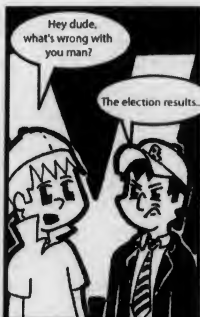
Elizabeth Larus is Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science and International Affairs at UMW.



The author, bottom left, shown with her best friend and their families.

To Be Serious, I Just Wanted to Draw Robots

By Will Brewster and Austin Cobb



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The Bulletin is published on Thursday afternoons during the fall and spring semesters. All decisions are made by the editorial board, independent of The Bulletin adviser.

Letter and Editorial Policy

The Bulletin is always eager to receive letters to the editor and guest columns, and every effort is made to print them.

Letters should be submitted the Monday before publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, and columns should not exceed 700 words.

We will not publish anonymous submissions. Letters must include a phone number and address for purposes of verification. They can be mailed to The Bulletin at 1701 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA, 22401-4666, delivered to our office in Seacobeck Hall or sent to our e-mail address at bullet@umw.edu.

Opinions expressed in columns or letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff. Contact The Bulletin at 540-654-1133.



Features



UMW's First International Art Show

By MEGAN GRIGORIAN
Staff Writer

The University of Mary Washington hosted its first international art exhibit in the duPont Gallery last Thursday. The "Art from Berlin" exhibit featured artists from the Kunstoffice Gallery in Berlin, Germany.

The art department at UMW extended an invitation to Ancz E. Kokowski and Peter Meyer, curators of the Kunstoffice Gallery, to bring pieces from a variety of artists displayed in their gallery. However, most of the artwork was created specifically for the showing at UMW. They chose paintings

from five artists including Carol Gollner, Malgorzata Jankowska, Ancz E. Kokowski, Karina Spechter and M. Straub.

"When we were asked by Carol Garmon to come to Virginia, I asked the artists that I have known for a very long time to create whatever they want," Meyer said. "I knew they would do a good job."

The Kunstoffice Gallery has been open for five years and gives an opportunity for younger artists to show unique, sometimes controversial artwork. The German gallery was created in order to provide an outlet for artists to display and discuss contemporary art movements and methods. The distinctive style of each of the artist's work on display made it somewhat difficult to put together a cohesive exhibit.

"It is hard to show pieces from a lot of artists in the same space like this sometimes," Kokowski said. "But I think that the pieces we have selected work very well together."

The Kunstoffice Gallery shows work by more than just German artists. They have artists from the

Netherlands, Poland and France display their art as well. It is the absence of a language or cultural barrier that visitors of the gallery appreciate.

Junior Joann Tong thinks it is important that UMW is participating in this international exhibit.

"It's interesting how we can bring art from other countries here. It's their way of communicating to us," she said. "We don't have to know their language to know what they're saying."

Tong picked out a painting by Karina Spechter, which displays two women waiting on a street corner, to show how the pieces are relatable.

"It looks so realistic and modern," Tong said. "It's something that you'd never think to paint."

There are 24 paintings on display and are mostly oils or acrylics on canvas. It is clear from walking around the gallery that the artists are not afraid to experiment with color. Kokowski's piece "ceci n'est pas un galeriste" is a prime example of altering one image with just the use of color. The piece consists of ten different paintings, all of the same man in the exact same pose, with only a change in the color and brightness to differentiate them.

The variation of color is what attracted junior Emily Nelson to the work in the exhibit.

"I really liked the exhibit because a lot of the pieces were



Kerri Scales/Bullet



Kerri Scales/Bullet

Malgorzata Jakowska's pieces entitled "Aso" (top left) and "Aso II" (bottom left) were both done using oil and acrylic paint on board. Ancz E. Kokowski pieces entitled "ceci n'est pas un galeriste" (right) are part of a series of ten photos made using acrylic paint on jute.

► See ART, page 5

Parking Still A Problem Despite Newly Constructed Parking Deck

By STEFANIE SKY
Staff Writer

The University of Mary Washington provided its commuter students with a brand new parking deck which adds an additional 370 parking spaces.

At a cost close to \$6 million, according to Richard Hurley, vice president for administration and finance, construction on the deck began in August 2005 and was completed in July.

A main problem with the parking garage, located behind Goolrick, is that students are now forced to buy \$200 parking decals that, just a few years

ago, were free.

According to Hurley, the money for the parking deck came from revenue bonds the state sells at the request of the school. UMW students then repay those fees through buying parking passes.

"I always try to make sure that everybody understands this," Hurley said. "The state doesn't give us any money for anything related to parking or transportation, streets, or things like that. It's all expected to be on the backs of the students, unfortunately."

Despite the high amount students will now have to pay for decals, Hurley said that the parking deck has had no affect on other costs students are faced with, such as tuition.

Although the parking deck does provide the necessary spaces the

school was lacking, there are some commuter students who have yet to even buy decals and insist on finding parking elsewhere.

All of the students spoken too asked not to be named due to the fear of being caught and ticketed, but each one of them agreed on one thing, they didn't want to pay the \$200.

When asked if she had used the new parking deck, a female senior admitted she had never parked inside of it and has been parking illegally since August.

"I never bought one [a decal] because at the time I didn't have \$200 to spend on a decal," she said. "When I realized I wasn't getting tickets without it, I decided to press my luck."

Another UMW senior said that he didn't buy a parking pass either, and neither did his four roommates. They find parking wherever

they can including unmarked streets and in front of friend's houses.

Although there are some students who test their luck when it comes to parking, there are students who are forced to buy the decal in one way or another.

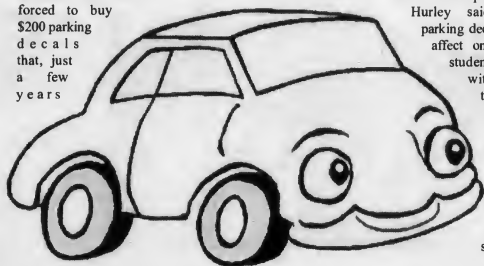
"I bought the ticket because that bicycle cop gave me a \$200 parking ticket because I ran into the Eagles Nest for five minutes to get cash I had to get to pay for softball stuff," junior Ashley Sifer said. "They gave me the parking pass when I paid the \$200 ticket."

Sifer uses the parking deck at least four times a week, and adds that the deck is never at capacity.

"Only the top and bottom levels ever have cars parked on them," Sifer said. "Even then they are never full."

When asked about ticketing, Lieutenant Dade Cooper from the campus police said that

► See PARKING, page 5



Thumbs Up... Thumbs Down...



To Snacksacks.



To stealing things. Seriously, it's illegal and just plain mean.



To Thursday. It's the best day of the week.



To Maurice's girlfriend, woof.

Send your own thumbs to bullet@umw.edu

duPont Gallery Displaying Art From Berlin, Germany

ART, page 4

colorful which made it appealing to the eye," she said.

As a German and studio art major, sophomore Jesse Kopp found the exhibit to be fascinating.

"I find it particularly exciting seeing contemporary artwork from a country that I'm nuts about," Kopp said. "I thought the exhibit was *ausgezeichnet*, which is 'outstanding' in German."

Kopp especially liked the untitled piece by Malgorzata Jankowska displayed first in the gallery. The painting shows a pondering girl amidst a backdrop of color.

"I liked the color and absence of a coherent background," Kopp said. "And how it seems empty, but actually has a lot meaning."

Kokowski and Meyer have been

taking advantage of their trip to Virginia. They are visiting galleries around Richmond and then traveling to New York for a couple days. They both have enjoyed Virginia and are surprisingly not out of their element.

"Virginia is really not that different from Berlin," Meyer said. "We share many of the same features."

During the middle of the reception Meyer presented the University with a flag from Berlin and expressed his sincere gratitude for being invited to UMW. He closed by encouraging everybody to visit the gallery.

"I hope my English is good enough," he said. "But tell everybody what you have seen here."

The duPont Gallery is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. "Art from Berlin" will be on display until Dec. 10.



Kerri Seale/Bullet

Above, Malgorzata Jankowska's untitled piece. One of five paintings by Jankowska, the piece was done using oil and acrylic paint on canvas. This and all pieces from the Kunstoffice Gallery will be displayed in the duPont Gallery through Dec. 10.

UMW Students And Faculty Both In Need Of Parking Spaces

PARKING, page 4

they do patrols, including the parking deck, and issue tickets if there is improper parking.

However, the campus police are not restricted to ticketing on campus. There are side-streets around the campus where signs are displayed clearly stating "No UMW Student Parking." Both the Fredericksburg city police and the campus police are permitted to ticket on these streets.

"Normally it will be just one," Cooper said.

"But both have the authority to write tickets."

According to Cooper, the tickets written for illegal parking on side streets are tickets provided to the campus police by the city police and all tickets are to be paid to the city, not the school.

Despite the new parking spaces allotted to commuter students with the newly built parking deck, new construction around campus leaves faculty circling the streets roaming for spots now.

"Because of the tower project, we've lost faculty parking on double drive, and we've

lost some visitor parking on double drive, although I don't know how many exact spaces," Hurley said.

"And then the trailer, we like to call it a modular unit, I think we lost about a dozen employee spaces there."

Faculty is forced to park wherever they can. But luckily, the faculty at the UMW has the privilege of parking where students are not.

"The employees can park in the neighborhoods," Hurley said. "You've probably seen 'No UMW Student Parking' signs all over the place but we're allowed to park there."

Despite the additional parking spaces, the deck still does not accommodate students properly, according to a UMW commuter student.

"I am willing to pay the \$200 parking pass fee but I doubt I would ever end up parking in the garage," she said. "It's too far away from the center of campus, where most of my classes are."



UMW Young Democrats and College Republicans Triumph and Mourn Over Recent Election



Courtesy Elz England

Senior Elz England (center) and fellow UMW Young Democrats celebrate candidate Jim Webb's victory over opponent George Allen while at a celebration in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday night.



Courtesy Susan Alexander

Seniors Sara Byrd (left) and Susan Alexander (right) watch the TV with anticipation on Tuesday night as George Allen is defeated by Jim Webb in the race for U.S. Senate.

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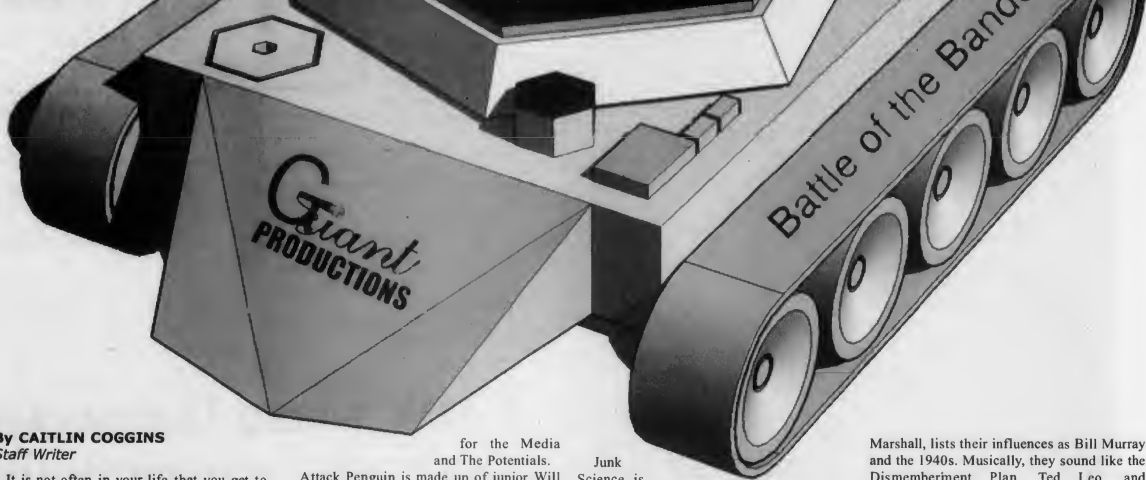


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Entertainment

UMW Bands Battle In Great Hall



By **CAITLIN COGGINS**
Staff Writer

It is not often in your life that you get to see seven different bands for free. On Sat., Nov. 11 at 9 p.m., you get to see them duke it out for the title of best band on campus.

Giant Productions is hosting the "Battle of the Bands" in the Great Hall. Students can go see seven different school bands each play for about twenty minutes and then students and a panel of school faculty will help decide who gave the best performance.

The featured bands are: Attack Penguin, Junk Science, The Grave-Robbing Extravaganza, Tereu Tereu, Pash, No Sunlite

for the Media and The Potentials.

Attack Penguin is made up of junior Will Copps on drums and sound manipulation, and Terry King, a junior at the University of Maryland Baltimore, on vocals and guitar. Both used to play in the band The Bananafish prior to Attack Penguin, and decided that they wanted to continue playing together upon the band's break-up. They have found a great deal of success in Washington, D.C., playing in clubs like the Black Cat. They have a trippy, indie rock sound, not to mention they have their own video game, which will debut to play at the show as well.

Junk Science is made up of all University of Mary Washington students, and has played at several school functions. The band consists of senior Ed Dickerson on vocals and guitar, junior Matt Bradshaw on vocals and harmonica, junior Ben Marks on drums, junior Jeremy Cooper on saxophone and sophomore Ephraim Firdywek on bass. Junk Science is a self-described "fun, funky, band" and is definitely a force to be reckoned with.

Tereu Tereu, headed by junior Ross

Marshall, lists their influences as Bill Murray and the 1940s. Musically, they sound like the Dismemberment Plan, Ted Leo, and Medications.

The Grave-Robbing Extravaganza is a metal band headed by junior Christian Tenney.

The Potentials, Pash and No Sunlite for the Media will also be playing, and promise to give great performances.

Each band will be playing in a 20 minute slot, and after all the performances are over, the panel of judges will decide the winner. It starts at 9 p.m. this Saturday in the Great Hall.

New Shows Are Worth Falling For This Season

By **ANDY DRAKE**
Staff Writer

It's the most wonderful time of the year. No, it's not Thanksgiving or Christmas, and definitely not Halloween. Fall marks the start of something far more important than holiday cheer, or good will towards men; it's the start of the new television season. Almost all the new shows and returnees are a few episodes in, and have firmly established themselves as good, bad or unwatchably wretched. So without further ado, here are the shows I'm watching, and the shows you should be watching too.

Monday

Heroes, 9 p.m. on NBC (first season)

Synopsis: An ever-growing number of people across the country begin exhibiting superhuman abilities and must band together to stop a nuclear

attack on New York City while fighting against their own personal demons.

The show's fabulous cast and creative team, including: Bryan Fuller (Dead Like Me, Wonderfalls) and Jeph Loeb (Lost, Smallville and some of the greatest Batman comics yet written) makes "Heroes" easily one of my favorite new shows of the season. The characters are all fascinating and although some of their "powers" are a bit overused (telepathy, flight etc.) they're implemented in unique and interesting ways. For instance, the character with Wolverine's healing ability is a high school cheerleader, and an overworked single mother has a very Hulk-like alter-ego. Fans of supernatural dramas like "Lost," or the "X-Files" definitely need to jump on the Heroes bandwagon if they haven't already.

Studio 60 On the Sunset Strip, 10 p.m. on NBC (first season)

Synopsis: After an on-air meltdown by a late-night sketch show producer, new NBS president

Jordan McDeere (Amanda Peet) is forced to hire two previously exiled show-runners (Matthew Perry and Bradley Whitford) to keep the network from going under.

"Studio 60" is Aaron Sorkin's third television project after "Sports Night" and "The West Wing," and a behind the scenes drama of a fake SNL seems like a perfect setting for his writing, at least it does at first. The show works just fine until we see the actual comedy sketches, which are just awful and far inferior to the dreck SNL is putting out nowadays. The cast is exceptional but just isn't given much to work with. If Sorkin gets his act together, "Studio 60" could still become a great show, that is if it doesn't get canceled first.

Tuesday

Gilmore Girls, 8 p.m. on The CW (season 7)

Synopsis: Lorelei and Christopher become

romantically involved after her blowout with Luke, and Rory attempts to juggle her long distance relationship with Logan and her schoolwork at Yale.

Fans were shocked and outraged when series mastermind Amy Sherman-Palladino announced that she was releasing creative control of the show to the relatively unknown David S. Rosenthal due to disputes with the network. Many felt that Palladino's fast-paced dialogue couldn't be duplicated without losing something in the translation. I'm happy to report, however, that all fears should be set aside as the show is better than ever. If anything, season 7 seems more akin to how the series used to be; which is to say, more funny side-plots and less contrived relationship drama. Of course it's only a matter of time before Luke and Lorelei get back together, but if it's handled anywhere near as well as the season has been so far, then we have nothing to worry about.

► See TV SHOWS, page 7

the Spotlight

By **WILL COPPS**
Assistant Entertainment Editor

I had no idea that two men could make so much sound with a drum set and one guitar. Especially two men that could walk onto a stage looking like that.

The Black Keys headlined a sold out show at the 9:30 Club Sun., Nov. 5 (and again Nov. 6) to a flabbergasted crowd, including myself and National Public Radio, who have a broadcast of the show up on npr.org.

While I did consider myself a Black Keys fan before, I had personally come more to see openers The Black Angels from Austin, Texas. I'd now travel twice the distance to see either band.

The Black Keys are simply one of the greatest live bands I've ever seen. Their stage presence and energy was phenomenal. When they came on to the stage, I was thinking "you've got to be kidding me." One looked like a worn out English major and the other looked like he appeared out of the backseat of backwoods of Southern Virginia.

The second they got a hold of their instruments, I understood why everyone was going nuts. They grabbed the crowd from the first wailing guitar feedback and didn't let go until long after the end of their encore. Their live show is blues rock at its finest. Even if you are not a fan of blues, give the Black Keys a chance next time they are in town.

The Black Angels were the perfect band to set the stage. They played with passion and precision and served as one of the best opening bands that I have ever seen. For those familiar with the kind of music, think Brian Jonestown Massacre influences. If not, think drone, ethereal Doors. It was obvious that most of the crowd had not heard of the band, but by the end of the concert people were going nuts.

While the bands aren't returning very soon to the area, it is worth checking out releases by both. As previously reviewed in this section, "Passover" by The Black Angels still holds up as a fantastic indie release.

If you are looking for a good starting point for checking out the Black Keys, steer clear of their newer release "Magic Potion" and find a copy of "Rubber Factory" first. It's a better illustration of the energy they can convey.

While the albums can't capture their live sound completely, they are still worth checking out if you are a fan of this kind of music.



The Black Keys

courtesy of billboard.com

Check out a broadcast of the show on
NPR's Live Concert Series
at npr.org

What Have You Overheard On Campus?

Heard something funny or weird?
Like donuts?

"I swear, the cop wasn't wearing a hat so I got out of the ticket."

- A less than law-abiding student.

-Submitted by Dr. Theresa Kennedy

"Are we fighting a Tom Sawyer Zombie?"

-A student concerned with a literary encounter.

-Submitted by junior Becca Helsley



Send me your overheard at zbown8jc@umw.edu and you'll be automatically entered into a monthly drawing for A DOZEN FREE Krispy Kreme!

Shows Are A Sight To See

4 TV SHOWS, page 7

House MD, 8 p.m. on Fox (season 3)

Synopsis: Dr. House attempts to get in touch with his human side after a near fatal shooting inadvertently leads to the cure for his crippled leg.

"House" still has an almost pitch perfect mix of comedy, romance and hospital drama. Although the cured leg plotline has been almost completely written out, character drama is still at the forefront this season. Hugh Laurie gives another Emmy worth performance and the supporting cast continues to be excellent. There may not be much new to say about this season but it's still by far the best medical drama on the tube.

Veronica Mars, 9 p.m. on The CW (season 3)

Synopsis: A college bound Veronica struggles with her personal relationships while attempting to catch a campus rapist.

Kristen Bell is as charming as ever this season, but as a whole, the plots have been a little too much Nancy Drew, and not enough Raymond Chandler. Don't get me wrong, rape is a serious issue, but it just doesn't have the same panache as a best friend's murder, or a whole school bus of kids mysteriously driving off a cliff. On a good note, each of the many side characters have expanded and evolved. Wallace (Percy Daggs III) often gets his own completely self-contained stories now which is good news for fans of his character. As of now, The CW has only ordered nine episodes for this season, with more episodes contingent on ratings, so if you're bored on a Tuesday night, change the channel from that reality crap and support good TV.

Wednesday

30 Rock, 8 p.m. on NBC (first season)

Synopsis: Head writer of "The Girlie Show," Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) attempts to stay in control of her show, despite an overbearing boss (Alec Baldwin) and a mentally-ill star (Tracy Morgan).

"30 Rock" is my new favorite sitcom that isn't "The Office." Tina Fey plays essentially the same character she did in 2004's "Mean Girls," and Baldwin and Morgan are also a bit typecast. None of that matters though, because all three characters, as well as a large supporting cast are all ridiculously hilarious. The show is fast paced and fits a great joke into every nook and cranny of it's 22 minutes. Many have unfairly compared the show to "Studio 60" but really, there's no connection. One is a great comedy, while the other only wishes it was. If you like things that are awesome, make sure to give "30 Rock" a shot. Note: starting Thursday November 16, both "30 Rock" and "Scrubs" are moving to NBC's must see TV timeslot, immediately following "Earl" and "The Office."

Lost, 9 p.m. on ABC (season 3)

Synopsis: Jack, Kate and Sawyer attempt to escape from "The Others," while the other crash survivors plan a rescue.

After two seasons of unresolved mysteries, "Lost" has finally

Shows Worth Watching!

started to open up a little and answer some of them. While we still may not know what "The Others" are doing on the island, at least we're getting to know them. Most of the fan-favorite characters are back in fine form as well, including Locke who's off of his self pity trip and back to kicking polar bear ass. This is also a great time for the uninitiated to start watching, since all the characters are being reintroduced slowly and with lots of back history.

on TV, if you don't fall off of your chair laughing at least once an episode, then you don't have a soul, plain and simple. Season 3 is even better than the last, mainly due to it's brilliant resolution to last season's Jim/Pam make out session. Now Jim works in another office with Ed Helms who seems to be constantly channeling his inner frat boy and Rashida Jones who could potentially be a new love interest for Jim. As if this season couldn't get any better, original British series masterminds Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant are slated to script an episode, along with guest appearances from the original cast.

Thursday

My Name is Earl, 8 p.m. on NBC (season 2)

Synopsis: Earl continues to mark off his karma list while watching out for his dim-witted brother and ex-wife.

Although I've always been a big fan of Jason Lee's work in Kevin Smith's films, I just couldn't picture him being funny playing a redneck alongside Jaime Presley and the chunky guy from "Boy Meets World." Well you can color me converted, "My Name is Earl" is one of the most unabashedly sweet and hilarious shows on TV. Although not much is different this season, the formula still works spectacularly well. This season's also already had some great guest appearances from Giovanni Ribisi and Roseanne Barr, with more on the way.

The Office, 8:30 p.m. on NBC (season 3)

Synopsis: The workplace high-jinks continue at the Scranton branch of the Dunder Mifflin paper company, while Jim makes new friends (and enemies) at his new office in Stamford.

"The Office" continues to be my favorite show

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News

Art Prof. Takes Medical Leave

Students And Faculty Struggle With Di Bella's Temporary Absence

By CRAIG GRAZIANO
Contributing Writer

Studio Art professor Joseph Di Bella and his wife Phyllis knew that traveling to Houston, Texas, to meet their new grandchild would be very tiring for him, but he said his physicians felt that he was well enough to make the trip.

"Our granddaughter was born on the day we left for Houston, so we were able to see the new family right in the hospital where the baby was delivered," said Di Bella, 56. "I was ill the entire week we were there, but we expected that would be the case."

Di Bella, whose 30 years at the University of

Mary Washington helped the creation of the Ridderhof-Martin Gallery on campus, is on medical leave this semester while he recovers from pneumonia related to Wegener's Granulomatosis, an autoimmune disease affecting the kidneys. The disease is currently in remission but Di Bella is still very susceptible to pathogens and viral infections.

The medication that Di Bella must take is what suppresses his immune system. He said the result has kept him from much activity.

"I have not had the strength to do any creative work of any kind while I have been ill," Di Bella said. "I am still very weak, having lost over 40 pounds."

Much of his time is spent on visits to the doctor and resting. He says the support of his wife, Phyllis, is immeasurable. She often must leave work early to take Di Bella to appointments and pick up prescriptions.

This is the second time Di Bella has had to stop teaching due to health concerns. He suffered from an eye infection during the 2002-2003 school year, resulting in cataract surgery. That infection also was due to his medication affecting his immune system.

Art Department head Doctor Jean Ann Dabb describes Di Bella as a rock, thanks to his long history with the art program.

"He's a completely dynamic instructor and his commitment to his classes is extraordinary," Dabb said.

Despite the problems, Di Bella ensures that he is not planning on retiring any time soon.

"I love what I do, I love teaching and I sorely miss it," Di Bella said. "I planned an especially challenging semester for my painting and drawing students for this semester. During the summer I worked on some new strategies that I wanted to implement this semester."

In 1983, the same year he received the Simpson Award for Excellence in Teaching, Di Bella became the first gallery director for the campus galleries.

"I am most proud of the involvement I have had over the years in the development of the Ridderhof-Martin Gallery and gallery programs associated with it," Di Bella said.

In addition to his work on campus and in the local art community, Di Bella is a member of the Phoenix Gallery in New York City, where he won first place in a 2001 juried competition.

Senior Jane Mangione, an art history major, is the senior representative on the University's Gallery Advisory Committee, on which Di Bella also works.

She said that because her major concentration is not Studio Art, she does not see Di Bella often in classes.

Mangione said she was not surprised by his most recent absence, and remembered the first time she was truly aware of his health problems.

"We rode a train from New York City

together the winter before last," Mangione said. "It was coincidental; I was interning at a gallery and he had a show at another gallery. I feel like we only talked for a few minutes because he was so tired. He was becoming thin and losing color."

Since the Art Department consists of only seven professors for both Studio Art and Art History, any illnesses take a professional and emotional toll on both students and faculty members.

Mangione said the Art Department is not a stranger to health related absences.

Dabb battled colon cancer last year. According to Mangione, Dabb left mid-semester last fall. Dabb said she did not return as chair of the department until this July. Thomas Somma, UMW Gallery Director, member of the Gallery Advisory Committee and professor of Museum Studies, is also fighting cancer.

"It takes a big toll on the department," Mangione said. "Due to our small size, we're all very close."

Several other student representatives were asked to comment on Di Bella's absence, but said the issue was too private to discuss.

Dabb thinks the Art Department's situation is no more unique than any other, saying that teachers taking sick or maternity leave are not rare occurrences, but the proximity of all these illnesses is unfortunate.

Di Bella revealed to the department that he was taking sick leave five weeks into the fall semester. Within five days the department

found Calvin Burton, who recently received his MFA in painting from Virginia Commonwealth University, as a replacement.

"Students say he's very personable," Dabb said. "He comes out with energy from just being a student himself. It's hard for anyone to walk into a new classroom dynamic that another teacher has already established."

One point of concern for next semester among studio art majors is whether Di Bella will be back to instruct the Drawing 2 and Painting 2 classes.

"At this point we have no plan on that," Dabb said. "Professor Di Bella is scheduled to teach those classes. That's what we are telling students."

According to Di Bella, students have been active in maintaining a close correspondence with him.

"I am surprised by the interest of my absence on campus this semester," Di Bella said. "Several of my students have been so kind to e-mail me and send me notes of well wishes while I have been ill."

Dabb has seen Di Bella during this most recent bout with illness.

"Ironically, the last time I ran into him we were in the hospital both getting blood tests," Dabb said. "It's one of those darkly humorous episodes."

The contribution that Professor Di Bella has made to the Fredericksburg art community is considerable. Mangione said that with his and the rest of the Gallery

Advisory Committee's help, the Ridderhof-Martin Gallery

and the Dupont Gallery have been able to show off students work and also maintain healthy connections to area art collectors and representatives from the National Gallery in Washington, D.C.

His influence stretches even further, to Urbino, Italy, where in 1994 he began teaching a language/art course through UMW.

For now Di Bella is doing his best to get back to normal life.

The journey to Texas where he will help his son adapt to parenthood allows him to maintain a sense of optimism and with that, a love for his work.

"I have yet to see what the future holds regarding my health," Di Bella said. "I suppose anyone could say the same thing about themselves."



Photo Courtesy of UMW.edu
Studio Art Professor Di Bella is on medical leave.

"I am surprised by the interest of my absence on campus this semester."

—Joseph Di Bella

Flyers Rile UMW

FLYERS, page 1

forum for students to discuss the issues raised. It can be found by following the web address listed at the bottom of the flyers. So far, three comments have been made.

Senior Jeanette Schmitt, a member of Project Plus, is the contact name listed on the flyers.

"People have reacted strongly enough to tear the flyers down so it has obviously provoked some sort of thought," she said. "People are beginning to talk."

Schmitt went on to say that the overwhelmingly negative reactions had been expected, and the only influence is the "need to use more tape and staples."

Besides pheromone alterations, Project Plus has used its flyers to advocate other scientific studies that show how estrogen and progesterone, the two active synthetic hormones in the pill, induce such issues as environmental destruction and raised carcinogenic risks.

Each interviewed student stated that the flyers had not changed their views on birth control, or made them more aware of the risks involved. This includes UMW graduate student Kathryn Astley.

"I understand the health risks involved with birth control, and I knew them before any of these flyers were up," Astley said. "The risks are right on the package."

Health risks are printed on the insert that comes in every 28-day clinical package of birth control, an action carried out since the FDA ordered it in 1970, after feminists spoke out at Senate hearings concerning the pill's health complications. Ortho-Tri Cyclen Lo, a popular low dosage brand, lists in bold font that "risks of taking oral contraceptives" include "risk of developing blood clots," "gallbladder disease," "liver tumors" and "cancer of the reproductive organs and breasts."

According to biology professor Janet Hughes, the initial production of birth control contained doses very high in synthetic estrogens, which caused a lot of problems. The birth control prescribed today, however, has such diminutive hormone doses that the increase of health risks for females is only slight. The raised risk of estrogen-causing cancer, for example, is in part a **l** **r** **e** **a** **d** **y** predisposed by genetics.

Gloria Whitley is a registered nurse at Bethany Pregnancy Center in Downtown Fredericksburg.

"Some females don't even realize that cervical cancer is most often caused by the sexually transmitted disease HPV, not by hormones," she said.

Hughes commented on the credibility of the flyers.

"Of course any scientific study can find that one patient, with the side effects [they] were searching for, to support their case," she said. "On the other hand, the freedom that this pill has provided women since it came out in the fifties is tremendous; women no longer have to live in fear [of pregnancy], and they have control over their bodies."

Upon United States government approval in 1960, the tiny pill partially catalyzed the entire sexual freedom movement.

Project Plus does not advocate the pill's positive influence on women's liberation. On the contrary, it projects the belief that the pill restricts feminist freedoms.

"Face It...Birth Control is Women Control," read one flyer in bold lettering. Above it, a cartoon man (holding a bottle resembling the original Enovid brand contraception) says in his cartoon bubble: "Thanks for taking one for the team, ladies!"

The question of whether birth control supports or oppresses female rights is a highly debated ideology surrounding female contraception.

"I believe birth control infringes on women's rights completely," Shankles said. "Birth control helps men think they can shirk their responsibilities," and avoid any possible repercussions to their rolling sex drive.

"Women pay for the pill, pay for the appointments at the clinic, take the pill everyday, put the hormones into their own bodies," Whitley said. "Yes, at a certain point, birth control is definitely letting the man off easy."

Schmitt agreed. "Birth control encourages men to use women," she said. "By removing the natural consequences of sex, birth control allows people to use each other to get off."

"Getting off," slang for reaching a sexual orgasm, is a natural climaxing sensation during sex. Both Shankles and Schmitt said that sex is a healthy, natural and positive aspect in a couple's relationship, while contraception is not.

According to Shankles, the female hormonal contraception pill is the only pill prescribed by doctors to take a healthy system (ovulation), and make it stop working. "Doctors give drugs to prevent an illness," she said. "Giving patients birth control is like saying a women's ovulation [cycle] is a disease."

Whitley agreed that contraception is not natural.

"Any time you hamper with the chemical makeup [of our bodies], it changes the body—that is not natural," she said. "A woman is not meant to have these extra hormones put into her reproductive system."

Sex without contraceptives, an idea endorsed by Project Plus, alarms a great number of both male and female students. Though there are natural alternatives to contraception, it has been instituted in sex education programs to teach students the importance of practicing safe sex by using protection.

Shankles suggested the Natural Family Planning Method as an alternative to the pill. The method charts a female's temperature and mucus levels during her cycle, patterns that can accurately measure her fertility rate.

"With practice and a lot of self control, some people say it is very effective method of avoiding

Birth control encourages men to use women. By removing the natural consequences of sex, birth control allows people to use each other to get off.

—Jeannette Schmitt

implantation, but it is time consuming," Whitley said. "It takes a strong commitment from both the male and the female. And that is something that doesn't flow well with the 'I want what I want when I want it' trend among younger generations in society."

Kathryn Astley believes students have more control than that.

"Students are still going to have sex when they want to have sex, and that does not mean they are uneducated about it," she said. "If anything, I would rather see that the

school offers affordable and accessible birth control on campus."

Many students feel that the method Project Plus is using to get its message across is what diminishes the campaign's credibility.

"Campaign flyers, like the one about synthetic hormones de-sexualizing fish, are hard to take seriously when the connection is that big of a stretch and no one takes responsibility for the statements," Pride said.

Junior Sam Shafvaloff agreed.

"If you are going to assert your opinion, people should have access to who you are and what you stand for," Shafvaloff said. "The information is not fact, but speculation."

Other than the flyers and the online forum, Project Plus has no immediately impending campaign projects.

"This is the beginning," Schmitt said. "We'll see where it goes."

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Viewpoints

Sexclamations I Heart Porn

By Daniel Coo, Staff Writer



I'll be perfectly honest with you; pornography is one of my favorite pastimes. There's just something

about watching other people have sex that seems to be an inherent human turn-on.

I would also say that discovering porn was a monumental moment in my sexual timeline, right after discovering masturbation. So, once I got to college and discovered high-speed internet, man, it was porn city.

Here's an interesting fact you probably didn't know; pornography was one of the main driving forces behind the development of high-speed internet.

Porn is a multi-billion dollar industry, and horny individuals all over the world, both men and women, wanted a means to get more porn faster, and thus high-speed Internet was born.

Once I was exposed to the privacy and the Internet that college has to offer, I met one of my favorite people in the world: Tera Patrick. Ms. Patrick is one of the top female adult actresses and is my favorite, hands down.

She's a tall, busty, dark, classy woman who's not too skinny and very exotic looking (she's half Thai). She's amazing, and blows the generic Jenna Jameson and busty blonde look-alikes out of the water (although they're all still crazy hot).

Of course, I must address this idea of 'female objectification' in pornography. While I hear this term all the time, I'm still not exactly sure what it means, and I get the idea that the people saying it don't either.

So here's the definition: "to present as an object, esp. of sight, touch or other physical sense." So by definition, pornography is the objectification of human sexuality.

But the last time I checked, both males and females are involved in having sex. So I guess that means that pornography objectifies both men and women.

Yes, there are a number of films that exemplify male dominance over the female(s) in the movie, but this is very much a reflection of our culture in general, and I think it's safe to say that males are in the majority when it comes to pornography's audience.

Also, anyone who's ever read Cosmopolitan or Men's Health magazine or any other of the thousands of periodicals that address sex, you'll find studies show that when it comes to the bedroom, women prefer a male who takes control.

Besides, if you ask me, most of the girls in the movies that I watch look like they're having a pretty damn good time. And if you're still complaining, there are female-oriented adult films.

While I would say that this particular column is definitely more male-oriented, you ladies have your porn too; they're called romance novels. While romance novels would fit more so into the category of erotica, which is more artistic, the two terms are often used interchangeably. The ultimate goal with both genres of entertainment is sexual arousal. Perhaps the difference between visual pornography and romance novels is just that; the means of arousal.

We men are simple creatures. We want to see two or more attractive people having sex, maybe hear a little music in the background, and that's pretty much it.

For women, it takes a little bit more; a tall, dark, long-haired Hispanic man named Manuel, maybe a black stallion, a dozen or so synonyms for the word penis, a sunset or two and a stable maid named Esmerelda. Throw moderate amounts of plot and drama into the mix and you have word-porn for women.

One true advantage of porn is that it can definitely improve sexual performance. If anything, porn can be enlightening in regards to discovering different sexual techniques and positions.

Without porn, I'd have no idea what I'm doing in the sack. So it's educational really.

Like I've said before, we all love sex. We were all born with a whole bunch of brain chemicals and bodily fluids that inevitably interact to create sexual arousal.

So whether you're alone, with friends or with your significant other(s), embrace your sexuality and check out an erotic flick or two. "Pirates" is an excellent movie; it's even got computer generated graphics and can be found at Blockbuster.

In other news, yearbook info has moved to Middlesex.com/umwerocticyearbook.

Tiers To You, Kid!

By Tierney Plumb, Associate Editor

It's a Monday night, and with no work to be done and no upperclassmen parties to attend, our campus surprisingly offers quite the nightlife. You just have to be creative.

Liz and I felt adventurous one school night. Dressed in horrendous baggy clothes, sunglasses and carrying metal



the hill from Marshall. We went all-out in true Vince Vaughn spirit-knee socks and sweatbands, ready to face the Purple Cobras. The other team warmly welcomed us, and after a few hits to the thighs, it was a memorable Wednesday evening.

Look out for bands coming to campus. Liz and I went to Bela

Fleck and the Flecktones freshman year. I had no idea who they were, but the electric guitar flips and students on their feet told me it was worth spending money on. Our theatre department has been working for months to deliver a hilarious performance of Bat Boy, The Musical and opening night is tonight in Klein. It also has electric guitar in it. So you know it's good.

At last year's scavenger hunt put on by Class Council, riddles such as, 'Love isn't good here' A: 'The tennis courts' really got my team thinking—and running.

Next time you think there's nothing going on, check the rock or your event list on Facebook. If checking "maybe attending" makes you seem cooler, do it. Just show up at some point. I wouldn't recommend being late for this Monday's scavenger hunt at 9 p.m. The first prize is 500 dollars in cash money.

Lounging in dorm lobbies means you are within arm's reach of the pizza delivery guy, and as my sophomore year roommate Kerri and I discovered in Randolph, these lobbies are spacious enough to play a few rounds of tennis (watch out for the light fixtures).

As seniors went to the Loft on Wednesdays, Kerri and I played dodge ball in the cages up



Tiers, right, and Kerri Scales, Features Editor, imitate AIM faces. There are, however, more exciting things to do here on weekday nights.

Got An Opinion?

Let's hear it.

Send letters and guest columns to
bullet@umw.edu.

Question Authority

This letter was written in response to "Control Your Propaganda" (Oct. 19, 2006, *The Bulletin*).

Dear Editor:

Three weeks ago, *The Bulletin* published an unsigned editorial that made statements—some reasonable, others not—concerning the actions of a small group of students in particular and about the student body in general.

The editorial and the reactions to it published the following week, are indicative of a serious problem we have in America and on this campus when debating important issues. Debates are framed in sets of dichotomies: Right/Left, Conservative/Liberal, Christian/Atheist and even (much to the chagrin of Muslims, I think) America/Islam.

The self-proclaimed authorities of the factions make broad claims as to the unassailable truth of their positions and conclude that reality and morality must conform to their viewpoints. We should all go out and do likewise.

And on it goes, the two sides throwing punches, searching for ways to subvert each others' claim to one discovered truth by referencing another one, and nevermind the fact that both sides feel free to borrow from the other when it is convenient to their position.

Take abortion. While the pro-lifers usually come from the viewpoint of Christian morality, imputing humanity and a soul into whatever is in a pregnant woman's belly and thus calling its death by abortion "murder," the pro-choicers are reassured of the validity of their position by referencing the supposedly unassailable belief that humans are autonomous individuals who hold complete rights over their own bodies and anything inside them.

The debate between the two positions fluctuates between insults and the assassination of healthcare workers and inevitably, no one is satisfied. Is this really what comprises a rational debate? I don't think so.

I think people often align themselves with one of the two established sides of these dichotomies because they seek answers to difficult questions about morality and the world around them, and they suppose the leaders of these factions to have insights they could not themselves attain.

Rather than consider the possibility of alternative explanations, it is easier and safer to pick a side and remain content blaming the other for the lack of human progress towards enlightenment or peace.

Perhaps you have already aligned yourself and are questioning your side's claim to truth, or perhaps you are thinking of picking sides.

I hope that you will consider an alternative: if you are having trouble understanding the world and your place in it, embrace that!

Ask questions about it! If in the search for answers you find only more questions, then keep asking them!

If any preacher, professor, parent, politician, god or other authority says something you disagree with, stand up and challenge them. Do not let them frame the debate for you; rather, make them show that their positions transcend the foundations upon which they are built.

Why should these two sides and the authorities that lead them hold the monopoly on truth? How did we come to think this way, to be so self-assured?

It is time for us to look for a new path of inquiry, and not ask why things are the way they are, but how they came to be that way, and how we are so certain that they are that way.

This is harder than belief, harder than taking sides. It requires more thought and less comfort. But the answers you get, and the deeper questions those answers inspire, are far more interesting and insightful than any that the factions can offer you.

Think for yourself, and be it god or human, question authority.

Isaac Knowles is a senior.

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UMW Rowing Coaches To Tie The Knot

By LAUREN BOSTON
Sports Editor

When *The Free Lance-Star* photographer Becky Sell set out to do a story on University of Mary Washington's rowing team, she never expected to find a husband along the way.

Two years later, Sell and Philip Schmehl are UMW's rowing coaches, and on Nov. 11 they will also be husband and wife.

According to Sell, 25, what started out as a story quickly turned into much more.

"I knew about [Schmehl] through a friend at the University of Virginia that I had been in touch with and she said to me, 'I'm friends with the rowing coach at UMW, you should do a story on them,'" she said. "When [Schmehl] heard I was a rower he said 'Would you consider coaching.' We met for an interview and the next thing you know I was coaching."

A month later they were also dating.

Although Schmehl, 30, and Sell didn't tell the rowing team about their relationship right away, the rumors had already started.

"There was a lot of speculation, especially on the part of the women's team, from the very beginning," said senior rower Nathan Smith. "There were some goofy rumors about where Phil and Becky had met, and it was pretty much assumed that they were dating from the get-go."

However, Schmehl and Sell were insistent on keeping their personal lives separate from their professional duties, and said it has never been a problem.

According to Schmehl, a former Bucknell crew club president, his rowers understand that when he and Sell are at practice they are coaches, regardless of their personal relationship. The couple often rotates between coaching the men's and women's teams and different practice exercises.

While they may have left their personal lives at home from the beginning, Sell said it wasn't as easy the other way around.

"We used to take it home a lot," she said. "He would want to vent about something and I would go into assistant coach mode and offer advice when he just wants someone to listen. So we've both gotten a lot better about separating the two."

Both Schmehl and Sell were avid rowers in college, a similarity Schmehl believes has strengthened their relationship.

"Even though we're working with each other I think we've got a good understanding of how we each work," he said. "Because she is a rower and a coach, she's got a really good understanding of what it is that can be frustrating from a coaching point of view and a rower's point of view."

Sell agreed, and said she enjoys their time together as coaches.

"We genuinely like each other," she said. "We hang out not as coaches and we hang out as coaches, and it's a little different setting but I think we generally have a good time hanging around each other. And he's a good boss. That helps, too."

Schmehl, a weight training teacher in his third year at UMW, had just completed his first semester as head coach in 2004 when he met Sell.

Sell said one thing the rowers probably don't realize is how laid back and patient Schmehl is, who can often be very serious in a competitive setting. According to Schmehl, most don't see all of Sell's personality either.



Courtesy Philip Schmehl

Rowing coaches Becky Sell and Philip Schmehl pose for a picture on the beach. The couple started dating after Sell became assistant coach and are getting married Nov. 11.

"I don't know that they realize how passionate she is about just about everything," Schmehl said. "That she really could probably be good in just about anything she wanted to be. She's smart, which is why I proposed, but when it comes to coaching, taking pictures, doing whatever, she has high standards that she sets for herself and follows through on them."

Passionate about their team, Schmehl and Sell planned their wedding after the final regatta of the semester on Nov. 4. They also have to wait until winter break to go on their honeymoon in Belize due to Schmehl's teaching schedule and Sell's work as a photographer at *The Free Lance-Star*.

According to Sell, although the team of 46 is too big to invite to the main reception, all of the rowers have been invited to the wedding ceremony and a brief rowers reception afterwards.

"It would be good to have them there," she said. "They're kind of the reason we met."

The rowing team may have suspected something when Sell first joined Schmehl's coaching staff, but his Feb. 10 proposal (as Sell was leaving her apartment to meet some friends) was a surprise to senior Kelley Tice and her

teammates.

"We found out at the first team meeting [of the spring season] when the men's and women's teams separated for goal setting," she said. "That was when one of the members of the team noticed something shiny on Becky's ring finger. We asked frantically, she answered, while blushing, and then of course we all freaked out and demanded details of the proposal. It was quite an entertaining meeting and needless to say, our goal setting was really sidetracked for a while."

Smith agreed.

"One of the women ran into the room where the men were meeting, shouted out 'Phil and Becky are engaged!' and ran back out," he said. "I don't think any of the guys said anything, we just carried on with our meeting, but the women definitely thought it was big news."

Team members have also gotten excited about the eventual pitter patter of little rower's feet, joking that Sell will have ninetuplets and force them to be coxswains (the head of the boat).

Schmehl, however, has other plans. "We do want to have a family one day," he said. "But not nine rowers."

“One of the women ran into the room where the men were meeting, shouted out ‘Phil and Becky are engaged!’ and ran back out.”

- Senior Nathan Smith

Cross Country Finishes Season

Eagles Fall to Salisbury for CAC Title

◀ CROSS COUNTRY, page 12

team for her first competition since September, senior Allison Hazlett finished sixth with a final time of 22:41, followed by senior Julia Rothlisberger (7th - 22:48).

According to Kirk, there were several strong individual performances.

"The team we have now is very young, but is by far the most talented team Mary Washington has had in awhile," he said.

"Several underclassmen have stepped in and made immediate impacts on this year's team. DeVar stepped up to take second in the meet and beat three Salisbury runners he lost to only two weeks ago at the Elizabethtown Invite."

Cash agreed and remains confident in his team's ability to perform.

"We had a very strong season as a team this

year," he said. "Every guy on the team made great progress and I think we earned quite a bit of respect from the teams we faced. Our team will win out a doubt be stronger next season if we can stay healthy."

Soper looks at his team's second place finish as a form of motivation for next weekend's NCAA South Region Championship.

"There is nothing special that we can do at this point in the season, other than to mentally and physically get some rest and then start to focus on the upcoming race," Soper said. "I know the team is excited, as it gives them one more chance to show what they are capable of, and to represent both UMW and the CAC well. Hopefully everyone will be

ready to step it up another notch."

With their regular season at a close, the Eagles will compete in the South Region Championship in Atlanta on Saturday.

“The team we have now is very young, but is by far the most talented team Mary Washington has had in awhile.”

- Senior Justin Kirk

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UMW CAC players this season:
Field Hockey - Senior Lauren Allen, freshman Jaci Marshall (first team); sophomore Alison Weckstein (second team)
Men's Soccer - Senior Tommy Park, senior Glenn Gray (first team); freshman Ryan Snyder, junior Luke Hostetter, freshman Ryan Taibl, senior Elliott Jones (second team)
Volleyball - Sophomore Kelley Hueber (second team)



Sports



Pro Basketball Is Back, Baby



Courtesy Layne Murdoch/NBA.com

New Orleans/Oklahoma City Hornets' Chris Paul gets major hang time during the Nov. 5 win over the Houston Rockets, 96-90. The Hornets are coming off a 38-44 losing season and have to contend with the San Antonio Spurs in their division.



By JEREMY JORDAN
Staff Writer

As the NBA plays out its first week of action, I offer up my predictions for the new season.

Atlantic Division: I happen to be a New York Knicks fan and would tell you that they're a great team, but I'd be lying. They're just plain awful and would probably lose to the University of Mary Washington at this point. The only result I can possibly see is a repeat of last year with the Nets running away with it all.

It's always tough to count out any team with Allen Iverson on it. His Philadelphia 76ers will certainly have a respectable season and will likely make the playoffs. However, with one of the best point guards in the league in Jason Kidd and two scorers in Vince Carter and Richard Jefferson, the Nets will win it this division.

Central Division: This is the strongest division in the Eastern Conference, with all five teams in the playoff hunt. The Pistons return their whole team minus Ben Wallace. Can a guy who averaged just over seven points a game last season make that much of a difference? Well, when he's the Defensive Player of the Year the answer is a clear yes. If Rasheed Wallace can stop yelling at the refs and Chauncey Billups can be "Mr. Big Shot" then the Detroit Pistons could

take this division again. If they are unable to put their problems aside then the LeBrons and the rest of the Cavaliers will gladly take this division.

The Chicago Bulls have improved with a talented young group of players led by Ben Gordon. Ben Wallace and Tyrus Thomas will give the Bulls a very active defense as well. This season, the Pistons without Big Ben will self-destruct just enough to give the Cavs the division.

Southeast Division: There are many who say the Heat are too old to defend their Championship. But Dwayne Wade can take over a game any time he wants. He's just that talented, and Shaq still weighs more than some sumo wrestlers. The Washington Wizards had the best offense in the entire conference last year with Gilbert Arenas leading the way.

However, they do not seem to believe in playing defense. This will keep them from winning the division, but not from making the playoffs and winning a series. The Orlando Magic also have a chance to make the playoffs with an emerging star in Dwight Howard. The Heat will win this one easily though.

Northeast Division: The weakest division in the NBA last year is no different this season. Last

year the Denver Nuggets were just six games over .500 and the only team to make the playoffs. This year, behind a rising star in Carmelo Anthony and not much else, the Nuggets will once again win this division only to lose their first round series at home.

Seattle has Ray Allen, owner of the purest jump shot in the game, and the Jazz have an AK-47 in Russian Andrei Kirilenko, but neither team has any low-post presence and can only dream of the playoffs.

Pacific Division: The Phoenix Suns are certainly fun to watch with their fast tempo of play under reigning MVP Steve Nash (who enjoyed an extra 15 minutes of fame recently with a mention from Nelly Furtado in her song "Promiscuous"). Shawn Marion has quietly but consistently put up solid numbers and the return of Amar'e Stoudamire should energize this team.

The Lakers certainly have their own MVP candidate in Kobe Bryant, and any help he gets from Lamar Odom will at least keep the Lakers close to the Suns. The Clippers behind Elton Brand should also have no problem making the playoffs.

Southwest Division: In a division that featured two of the very best teams last year, this one could go either way. But after watching the

Jeremy's Division Predictions

Atlantic Division:
New Jersey Nets

Central Division:
Cleveland Cavaliers

Southeast Division:
Miami Heat

Northeast Division:
Denver Nuggets

Pacific Division:
Phoenix Suns

Southwest Division:
San Antonio Spurs

Playoffs:
Miami Heat Over
Cleveland in 6

San Antonio Over
Phoenix in 7

Finals:
San Antonio Over Miami in 6

Spurs go into Dallas and win, they seem to still have enough to hold the Mavericks off. The Spurs trio of Manu Ginobili, Tony Parker, and Tim Duncan is unmatched by any team. For the Mavs their team revolves around Dirk, who remains one of the league's top players. The Rockets with Yao and T-Mac certainly have the talent to make the playoffs. However, the Spurs will ultimately hold off the Mavs in a long 82-game battle.

Playoffs: The playoffs will be wide open in the Eastern Conference with the Cavs on the rise and the Pistons falling. The Cavs will take the one step further than they did last year and reach the Conference Finals. Unfortunately the Heat will be waiting for them, and Dwayne Wade will take over down the stretch.

In the West the Suns offense will lead them back to the Western Conference Finals. The Spurs and Mavs will play a great series with the Spurs exacting revenge. Parker vs. Nash. Duncan vs. Stoudamire. It will certainly be fun to watch. In the end, the Spurs' experience will allow them to execute in the closing minutes.

Finals: The finals will feature Shaq and Duncan down low. The Spurs with Parker and Ginobili can outscore Dwayne Wade. A triple threat is better than the Wade and Shaq duo, as the Spurs reclaim the NBA title they won just two years ago.

Runners Earn 2nd In Conference

By STEPHANIE POTTER
Assistant Sports Editor

Despite a season riddled with major injuries, the University of Mary Washington cross country teams pulled together Saturday, winning second place overall in the Capital Athletic Conference Championships.

UMW competed in Salisbury, Md., securing eight spots in the top ten ranking. One race included a harrowing first place finish for senior Justin Kirk, who was named CAC Runner of the Year after completing the race in just 25:32.



Courtesy Clint Offen

Head Coach
Stan Soper

The men finished five points behind their leading competitor, with the women falling nine points short of a win.

Despite the loss, head coach Stan Soper said this was his team's best race of the season.

"I was very happy with our intensity and mental toughness," he said. "Both the teams were hampered

with injuries, which diminished our overall team depth. There simply was no room for error this past weekend, which put a lot of pressure on us, but both of our teams competed very hard, and I would have to say it was our best race of the season."

Eagle teams faced pressure from multiple teams Saturday, including Salisbury University, York College, Goucher College, Catholic University, Hood College and Marymount University.

Salisbury University posed the biggest threat to the Eagles, placing first overall in both the

men's and women's races.

Top runners for the men's team included Kirk, second place finisher freshman Frank DeVar, who took home the title of CAC Rookie of the Year with a finishing time of 25:38, junior Matt Downs (8th - 26:37), and freshman Matt Cash (10th - 26:42).

Top women's runners included third place finisher junior Ann Tripp (22:20), and junior Cristy Falcone (4th - 22:30).

Overcoming an injury and returning to the

► See CROSS COUNTRY, page 11

Upcoming Events

Nov. 10 - Bench Press and Arm Wrestling Competition, 6 p.m., Fitness Center

Nov. 11 - Swimming vs. Catholic, 1 p.m.

Team of the Week

The women's rugby team won the Division II state championship last weekend.